

CLAIMS

1. A tool, comprising:
 - a transparent substrate having a plurality of opaque lines formed on at least one surface thereof; and
 - a plurality of transparent lines of a contrasting color to the plurality of opaque lines and formed over the opaque lines to at least partially overlap the respective opaque lines, the plurality of transparent lines formed of a pigment that enhances the visibility of the plurality of transparent lines in a low-light condition.
2. The tool of claim 1 wherein the pigment comprises a pigment that is excitable when exposed to light and retains luminance for a period of time when the light is removed.
3. The tool of claim 1 wherein the pigment comprises a phosphorescent pigment.
4. The tool of claim 1 wherein the pigment comprises pigment that reacts to black light.
5. A transparent measuring device having enhanced lines, comprising:
 - a transparent sheet of material having planar opposing front and back surfaces;
 - a plurality of opaque lines formed on one of the front and back surfaces of the sheet of transparent material; and
 - at least one transparent line formed colinear with at least one opaque line, the at least one transparent line having a width greater than the at least one opaque line so as to be visible on at least one side of the at least one opaque line, the at least one transparent line formed of a contrasting color to a color of the at least one opaque line.

6. The device of claim 5 wherein the transparent line is formed of a pigment that reacts to light to provide enhanced visibility.

7. The device of claim 5 wherein the at least one transparent line is formed of a pigment that reacts to black light.

8. The device of claim 5 wherein the at least one transparent line is formed of a pigment that presents a neon effect.

9. The device of claim 5 wherein the at least one opaque line is formed from colinear dashes.

10. A tool for measuring and marking material and for guiding a hand-held cutting tool, comprising:

- a transparent substrate having mutually-opposing planar front and back surfaces and formed of a thickness that is adapted to guide the hand-held rotary cutting tool;

- a first set of opaque lines formed on at least one of the front and back surfaces of the transparent substrate; and

- at least one transparent line formed on at least one of the front and back surfaces of the transparent substrate and colinear with at least one of the first set of opaque lines, the at least one transparent line formed to have a width greater than a width of the respective at least one opaque line and positioned to at least partially overlap the at least one opaque line, the at least one transparent line formed of a contrasting color to a color of the at least one opaque line.

11. The tool of claim 10 wherein the at least one opaque line is formed as a dashed line.

12. The tool of claim 10 wherein the at least one opaque line and the at least one transparent line are formed as coincident dashed lines.

13. The tool of claim 10 wherein the at least one transparent line is formed of a pigment that is excitable when exposed to light and retains luminance when not exposed to light.

14. The tool of claim 10 wherein the at least one transparent line is formed of a phosphorescent pigment.

15. The tool of claim 10 wherein the at least one transparent line is formed of a pigment that is responsive to black light.

16. The tool of claim 10 wherein the at least one transparent line presents a neon effect to a user.

17. The tool of claim 10, wherein the at least one transparent line is formed from flexible material applied to the substrate.

18. The tool of claim 17, wherein the flexible material comprises a strip of flexible material sized and shaped to be applied over a single opaque line.

19. The tool of claim 18, wherein the strip comprises a tape having adhesive on one side.

20. A tool for use in measuring, marking, and cutting material, comprising:
a transparent substrate having mutually-opposing planar front and back surfaces;

a set of opaque lines formed on at least one of the front and back surfaces of the transparent substrate; and

at least one piece of flexible material applied to the transparent substrate to form an enhanced visibility composite line with at least one opaque line from the set of opaque lines and wherein at least one transparent line is formed on the flexible material of contrasting color to a color of the at least one opaque line and is aligned with the at least one opaque line to at least partially overlap the at least one opaque line, the transparent line adapted to enhance the visibility of the composite line in low-light conditions.

21. The tool of claim 20, wherein the transparent line is formed of a phosphorescent pigment.

22. The tool of claim 20, wherein the transparent line is formed of a pigment that is responsive to black light.

23. The tool of claim 20, wherein the transparent line is formed of a pigment that is excitable when exposed to light and retains luminance when not exposed to light.

24. The tool of claim 20, further comprising a white line formed over the opaque line, the white line having a width no greater than a width of the opaque line and visible only from the back surface of the transparent substrate.

25. A method of forming a tool for use in measuring, marking, and cutting material, the method comprising:

providing a substrate that is rigid and transparent and having mutually-opposing planar front and back surfaces;

forming at least one opaque line on one of the front and back surfaces of the substrate; and

forming a transparent line over the at least one opaque line, the transparent line formed to have a width greater than a width of the opaque line and positioned to at least partially overlap the opaque line, the transparent line formed of a color that is contrasting to the color of the opaque line and that reacts to light to provide enhanced visibility of the composite line formed by the transparent line and the opaque line.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the transparent line is formed of a lighter color than the opaque line.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the transparent line is formed of a pigment that reacts to light to provide enhanced visibility.

28. The method of claim 26, wherein the transparent line is formed of a pigment that reacts to black light.

29. The method of claim 25, wherein the transparent line is formed of a pigment that presents a neon effect.

30. The method of claim 25, wherein the opaque line is formed from colinear dashes.

31. The method of claim 25, wherein the transparent line is formed on a flexible material that is applied to the substrate.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the flexible material comprises non-static cling material.

33. The method of claim 25, further comprising forming a white line over the at least one opaque line, the white line having a width no greater than a width of the opaque line and visible only from the back surface of the substrate.

34. A method of forming a tool for use in measuring, marking, and cutting material, the method comprising:

providing a transparent substrate having mutually-opposing planar front and back surfaces;

forming a first set of opaque lines on at least one of the front and back surfaces of the transparent substrate; and

applying a flexible material to the substrate, the flexible material having a transparent line formed thereon of a width greater than a width of at least one opaque line of the first set of opaque lines and positioned to at least partially overlap the at least one opaque line, the transparent line formed of a lighter contrasting color to a color of the at least one opaque line to form a composite line of the transparent line and the at least one opaque line, the transparent line formed to react to light to enhance the visibility of the transparent line in a predetermined light condition.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein the predetermined light condition comprises a black light condition.

36. The method of claim 34, wherein the predetermined light condition comprises a low-light condition.